AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as set forth below in marked-up form.

Claims 1-25 are CANCELED.

26. (Currently amended) A data communication method for accessing information on a portable storage device through a terminal device having a placement section ~~that includes~~including a ~~plurality~~ group of light emitting devices, said method comprising the steps of:

sending a polling command to the portable storage device;

authenticating the portable storage device when a response to the polling command is received;

determining whether information on the portable storage device is accessible; ~~and~~

updating the information on the portable storage device when the information is accessed; and

activating the group of light emitting devices when the polling command is sent, the group of activated light emitting devices representing a status condition of communication between the terminal device and the portable storage device.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) The data communication method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

activating ~~a first~~the group of light emitting devices ~~of the plurality of light emitting devices~~ when the information on the portable storage device is ~~accessible and when the information on the portable storage device is~~ updated, the group of activated light emitting devices representing a change of the status condition of the communication between the terminal device and the portable storage device.

29. (Currently amended) The data communication method of claim ~~28~~26, further comprising the step of:

activating a ~~second group~~part of the group of light emitting devices ~~of the plurality of light emitting devices, when attempts to access information on the portable storage device are unsuccessful and when attempts to update information on the portable storage device are unsuccessful~~ the communication between the terminal device and the portable storage device is not successfully completed.

30. (Previously presented) A data communication method for accessing information on a portable storage device, comprising the steps of:

polling the portable storage device;

receiving a response from the portable storage device;

authenticating the portable storage device based on the response;

updating information on the portable storage device;

checking the status of communication with the portable storage device; and

activating a plurality of light emitting diodes for a predetermined period based on the checked status.

31. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 30, wherein blue light emitting diodes are activated to indicate a proper placement position when the portable storage device is polled.

32. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 30, wherein blue light emitting diodes are activated when the information on the portable storage device is updated.

33. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 30, wherein red light emitting diodes are activated when at least one of an attempt to authenticate the portable storage device fails and an attempt to update information on the portable storage device fails.

34. (Currently amended) A data communication method for accessing information on a portable storage device, comprising the steps of:

sending a polling command to the portable storage device;

communicating with the portable storage device when the response is received so that information stored on the portable storage device is accessed and updated; and

activating a plurality of light emitting diodes at predetermined intervals based on a communication status with the portable storage device.

35. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:

activating a group of light emitting diodes of the plurality of light emitting diodes to indicate proper placement of the portable storage device for communication.

36. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:

activating a group of light emitting diodes of the plurality of light emitting diodes when communication with the portable storage device is successful.

37. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 34, further comprising the step of:

activating a group of light emitting diodes when communication with the portable storage device is unsuccessful.

38. (Currently amended) A data communication method for accessing information on a portable storage device through[[,]] a terminal device having a placement section that includes a first light emitting device, said method comprising the steps of:

sending a polling command to the portable storage device;

authenticating the portable storage device when a response to the polling command is received; and

performing a processing operation when the authentication has been successful,

wherein ~~the~~ an emitting state of the first light emitting device is switched among a first state of waiting for a response to the polling command, a second state of performing the processing, and a third state of completing the processing operation.

39. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 38, wherein the first light emitting device identifies the first state by blinking, the first light emitting device identifies the second state by continuous lighting, and the first light emitting device identifies the third state by stopping light emission.

40. (Currently amended) The data communication method of claim 38, wherein the placement section of the terminal device includes a second light emitting device and the second light emitting device emits a different color light from the first light emitting device ~~emits~~ when the processing operation has not been completed correctly.

41. (Previously presented) The data communication method of claim 38, further comprising the step of:

indicating the completion of the processing and discontinuation of the processing operation by producing an audible output.

42. (New) A data communication device capable of communicating with a portable storage device in a non-contact manner, comprising:

a group of light emitting devices; and

polling means for sending a polling command to the portable storage device;

wherein the group of light emitting devices is activated when the polling command is sent, and the group of activated light emitting devices represent a status condition of communication between the data communication device and the portable storage device.

43. (New) The data communication device of claims 42, further comprising:

determining means for determining whether information on the portable storage device is accessible; and

updating means for updating the information on the portable storage device when the information is accessible,

wherein the group of light emitting devices is activated when the information on the portable storage device is updated, the group of activated light emitting devices representing a change of the

status condition of the communication between the data communication device and the portable storage device.

44. (New) The data communication device of claim 42, wherein a part of the group of light emitting devices is activated when the communication between the data communication device and the portable storage device is not successfully completed.